



THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham
Now Celebrating its 127th Year
Affiliated with the United Synagogue
Of Conservative Judaism

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MERIDEN, CT 06450

203-235-2581 FAX 203-235-2582

May, 2017

Iyar - Sivan, 5777

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Service Attendance

From time to time, I have written in this column a plea for members of our community to help ensure that we have a minyan at our regularly scheduled services. As I mentioned at that time, a minyan is required for those prayers for which a congregational response is required to sanctify God's name — the Bor'khu, a Kedushah, a Kaddish, and a public recitation of the Amida, or reading of the Torah. And for the most part over the years I have been here, we have had the required number in persons at almost all of our services — both those which we hold every week, as well as those special minyanim we arrange so one may say kaddish for a loved one.

However, members (and even visitors) who need to say kaddish will often come to one of our regularly scheduled services — Friday evening, or Saturday, Sunday and Thursday mornings, or at a Festival morning service — without calling, expecting to find a minyan. And more frequently than not over the past several months, we are finding ourselves short of the required number at our services.

It is vitally important that we maintain a minyan for all of our regularly scheduled services. Our members, and those others who find us in a time of need, count on us to be there for them.

Shavuot

The Festival of Shavuot, marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, will occur this year after Memorial Day weekend — Tuesday evening, May 30 through Thursday, June 1. As has been our custom, there will be a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot — the traditional evening study session, with the Rabbi's cheesecakes, on Tuesday evening, May 30. Services for Shavuot will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, beginning 9:30 am. Because it falls on a weekday, many will be at their places of employment on those days. It is important that we have a minyan at our services, especially on Thursday when Yizkor will be recited, so those attending may say Kaddish Yatom. Please plan on attending services to support the members of your congregational family at this time of remembrance.

Shabbat Luncheons

These past few years we have been holding monthly luncheons with an educational program following Shabbat morning services. The topic for May will be "What is a Jew — and Does it Matter? Many of you have attended these luncheons and a number of the members of our congregational family have stepped forward as a sponsor. I would like to see these monthly luncheons continue. Please email me or the Office if you would be willing to sponsor a luncheon for the coming year.

Rabbi's column continued on page 3



CALENDAR EVENTS

May, 2017

4 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Auxiliary Committee Meeting

5 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

6 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

Adult Education luncheon to follow:
What is a Jew? And Does it Matter?

7 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty (last of fiscal year)

10:15 am Auxiliary Brunch and Movie

9 Tuesday

6:00 pm Temple Informational Meeting

11 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting

12 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

13 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

14 Sunday

Happy Mother's Day

18 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

19 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

20 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

25 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

26 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

27 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

29 Monday

Memorial Day

30 Tuesday

Erev Shavuot Services

31 Wednesday

9:30 am Shavuot Services

June Events

1 Thursday

9:30 am Shavuot Services with Yizkor

4 Sunday

10:00 am Temple Annual Meeting
and Brunch

From the President's Corner:

Aviv sameach, everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying watching the leaves come out (even if you suffer allergies like I do). I also hope you had a happy Pesach.

Now I have to get more serious. The Temple Future Committee will hold an informational meeting for the temple membership on Tuesday, May 9th, at 6 PM, to present its ideas for the future of the synagogue. At this point, no decisions have been made. Everything is up for discussion. This is now your chance to ask questions and give the committee your comments and opinions. Please attend to make your opinions known. A light dinner will be served, so please RSVP the office, by Wednesday May 3rd, so we can get an idea of how much food to get.

The committee will take your input into account when it makes its formal report to the Annual Meeting on June 4th. This may well be the most important meeting we will ever hold. At that time, we will debate and vote on its proposals, pointing us in the direction where our future as a congregation lies. As you are thinking about the future of the temple, please keep this important point in mind. The annual meeting is also the time when we elect our new leaders. My term is up (hold your cheers), and Jay Weiss will become the new President — for the second time. As of now, we have NO candidates for the two Vice-Presidents, which means there are no successors to Jay when his term ends in two years. We also have no new candidates to fill openings on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee has not been able to find anyone willing to take these positions. If none of you step up and volunteer, the future of our temple will effectively end in two years, no matter what we decide in June.

Please consider the gravity of this situation, and attend these meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your kindness after the loss of my mother. I consider myself blessed to be a member of such a community of friends.

Bob

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Rabbi Kohn's column continued -

Ba'al T'kiyah

For the past several years Peter Braunfield has served as our Ba'al T'kiyah — shofar blower — on the High Holidays. Peter is retiring and will be moving out of state. He is willing to teach our members — young or old — to perform this mitzvah before he moves. Please contact me soon if you are interested. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

רפואה שלימה

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to:

**Robert Massicott
David Nemeth**

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

To Jo Robin and Michael Gould on the birth of their grandson, Eli Asher Gould, on April 11, 2017. Eli is the son of Julie and Josh Gould.

Happy Anniversary to our couples celebrating an anniversary during the month of May:

- 10 - Cyndi & Barry Sheftel
- 15 - Beth Ann & Ben Eisner
- 25 - Julie & Howard Levine
- 26 - Audrey & Jack Acabchuk
- 29 - Joan & David Goodman

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating a birthday during the month of May:

- 1 - Larry Kirchheimer
- 7 - Michael Sperling
- 9 - Rick Grossman
- 9 - Peter Braunfield
- 11 - Cathy Burwick
- 12 - Marc Nemeth
- 12 - Rebecca Sheftel
- 14 - Abraham Chidekel
- 15 - Ines Gerstenblatt
- 15 - Risa Zierler
- 18 - Roberta Ash
- 19 - Adrienne Palley
- 20 - Ken Steele
- 21 - Ruth Borsuk
- 21 - Ginny Kalmanowitz
- 27 - Michael Burwick
- 28 - Jean Lawrence
- 29 - Joan Goodman
- 30 - Shirley Brodach
- 31 - Susan Teller
- 31 - Bonnie Sperling

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

- 24 - Joshua Eisner

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Important Temple Informational Meeting
Tuesday, May 9
6:00 pm
Light dinner to be provided

The recommendations of the Temple Future Committee have been discussed by the Board of Directors, and we will have a general discussion meeting to get input from you and answer your questions. This will lead up to the Annual Meeting on June 4, at which time we will formally debate the proposals for the future of the synagogue and vote on them.

Please RSVP to the Temple office (203-235-2581) or email the office (bnabraham@yahoo.com) by Wed. May 3rd, and let us know you are planning to attend. We need a head count for the dinner.

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The **Temple's Annual Meeting and Brunch** will be on **Sunday, June 4th at 10:00 am** and not on June 11th as originally scheduled. Watch your mail (during May) for more information.

B'nai Abraham Auxiliary Brunch and Movie

Sunday, May 7 10:15 am



The Book Thief is a 2013 American-German [war drama film](#) directed by [Brian Percival](#) and starring [Geoffrey Rush](#), [Emily Watson](#), and [Sophie Nélisse](#).

The film is based on the 2005 novel [The Book Thief](#) by [Markus Zusak](#) and adapted by [Michael Petroni](#).

The film is about a young girl living with her adoptive German family during the Nazi era.

Taught to read by her kind-hearted foster father, the girl begins "borrowing" books and sharing them with the Jewish refugee being sheltered by her foster parents in their home.

The film features a musical score by Oscar-winning composer [John Williams](#).

Cost of the morning: \$8.00 for Auxiliary members
\$10.00 for non-members

Please RSVP to the Temple Office 203-235-2581 by Wednesday, May 3rd.

Yahrzeits Observed in the Month of May

May. 1	Jack Teller Hyman Lovett Estelle L. Epstein Augustus Gribus		Katherine Bishins Samuel Kalmanowitz Charles Limon Harold Zimmerman		Zali Schwartz
May. 2	Esther Friedman Ida Kosofsky Abraham Levine Charles Davidson	May. 12	Morris Rubenstein Abel Opinsky	May. 19	Abraham Cherniack Hannah Buchholtz Aaron Kalmanowitz Dr. Daniel Kahn
May. 3	Rose Nemeth Viola Jacobs Betty Ofshay	May. 13	Eva Povlotsky Marcia Katz Young Hillel Telis Leib Telis Moishe Telis	May. 20	Joseph Miller Nathan Israel Nathan Grossman Marlene Linder Marjorie Croog
May. 4	Rebecca Greenberg Ida Bittman		Kopel Telis Joseph Goodman Louis Sigmond	May. 21	William Hasburg Robert Muravnick
May. 5	Emil Blau William Jacobs Sylvia Trueheart Louis DeSarno Ethel Greenberg	May. 14	Dr. Mathias Borsuk Max Byer Steven Simon	May. 22	Dr. Zelly Ross
May. 6	Jacob Gelfand Henry Port Edward Schwartz Max Gary Melton	May. 15	Moses Frydenberg Elma Kaufman Aaron Nissenson Laura Levine	May. 23	Anna Levine Louis Shatsky Samuel Friedman Louis Schwartz
May. 7	Cecelia Friedman Hilda Sorman	May. 16	Brina Sheftel Bernard Levine Harry Roden Edward Rosenthal Zelig Telis Edythe Stein	May. 24	Estelle Kosofsky Henry Antin
May. 8	Harry Dobris Rifka Dokshitski Rashka Dokshitski Harry Klamkin John B Nemeth	May. 17	Charles Weisser Frieda Arinofsky Samuel Jacobs Marilyn Michaelson	May. 25	Rose T. White Gail Lee Burwick Perry Krentzman
May. 9	Morris J. Taitz Charles Sundel Barry Cooper Hyman Silver	May. 18	Abraham Peck Hella Friedlander Lili Lamm Herman Schwartz	May. 26	Ida Friedman
May. 10	Archie Kaufman			May. 27	Mollie Zwillinger
May. 11	Herbert Aron Sarah Tonkonow			May. 28	Sarah Hyman Irving Parmett Albert Schwartz
				May. 29	Rose Gerstenblatt
				May. 30	Harry Gold Abraham Gerber
				May. 31	Harriett Grossman Rudolph Pick Shalom Dokshitski



A Candle or Yahrzeit Light should be lit at sundown the night before these dates.

Tzdukah to perpetuate the memory of a loved one is a Mitzvah.

Your contribution to the Yahrzeit Fund would be greatly appreciated.

תודה רבה - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

Yahrzeit Fund: In Memory of:

Ida Kosofsky by Jane Weisberg

Evelyn & Louis DeSarno by Jayne Papoosha

Sylvia Trueheart by Hilda Trueheart

Marjorie Croog by Susan Croog

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Helene Axelrod** by Ruth Kahn.

In Memory of **Arthur Henle** by Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt.

Mazal Tov to **Jo Robin & Michael Gould** on the birth of their grandson, **Eli Asher Gould**, by Debbie & David Kaye.

Mazal Tov to **Jo Robin & Michael Gould** on the birth of their grandson, **Eli Asher Gould**, by Jean & Marc Nemeth.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Memory of **Helene Axelrod** by Flora Shorr and Jack Shorr.

Chevra Kadisha Fund

In Memory of **Alice E. Margolis** by Gerry Emple.

In Memory of **Helene Axelrod** by Gerry Emple.

In Memory of **Arthur Henle** by Gerry Emple.

In Memory of **Hugh Morgan** by Gerry Emple.

Building Fund

In Memory of **Helene Axelrod** by Jean & Jim Lawrence.

In Memory of **Arthur Henle** by Jean & Jim Lawrence.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

Mazal Tov to **Jo Robin & Michael Gould** on the birth of their grandson, **Eli Asher Gould**, by Risa & Fred Zierler.

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